

# **IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY**



**Journey and Accomplishments**

**1999 - 2007**

The Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) was created by an act of the Iowa legislature in 1967 with its purpose being to upgrade law enforcement to professional status. The specific goals were to maximize training opportunities for law enforcement officers to coordinate training and to set standards for the law enforcement services. The Academy establishes minimum standards for Iowa law enforcement and grants officer's certification. The Academy has the responsibility to decertify or to suspend officer's certification when necessary. In a manner, the Academy "polices the police".

The Academy provides residential training sessions varying in length from the 13-week basic training schools to one-day specialty and in-service seminars. The Academy can provide housing for 112 persons at any one time. The physical facility consists of dormitory rooms, classrooms, a cafeteria providing meals three times a day, physical fitness center, photography and video production studio and administrative offices. The Academy is located on Camp Dodge in Johnston Iowa. ILEA shares firearm ranges and tactical facilities with the Iowa National Guard.

The ILEA, in addition to maximizing training opportunities for all Iowa's peace officers, is responsible for providing basic and in-service training for all county and city jailers and Iowa telecommunication specialists. ILEA also establish standards and training requirements for the reserve peace officers in Iowa.

The Academy administers a program of psychological and standards testing. The Academy maintains and updates training files on approximately 6,000 active full and part-time peace officers in the state. The Academy maintains and updates required files on all reserve peace officers in the state.

The Academy oversees and approves the training provided at the recognized regional training facilities across Iowa (Cedar Rapids Police Department, Department of Public Safety, Des Moines Police Department, Hawkeye Community Technical College, and Western Iowa Technical Community College).

The over 600 law enforcement agencies in Iowa rely on the Academy not only for training but also for leadership, advice and research. The Academy instructors serve as expert witnesses for grand jury proceedings and civil cases in lawsuits filed against agencies and individual officers.

### **Values, Vision, Mission and Goals**

Values, vision and mission for the Academy were developed in 2002. The goals followed shortly after the development of the values, vision and mission.

The values of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy are Service, Teamwork, Excellence, Ethics, and Professionalism (STEEP). The ILEA vision is "Excellence in Training – Training the Best Peace Officers, Jailers and Telecommunication Specialists in the Nation". The mission is "Professionalism through Training".

The ILEA goals are to: (1) provide essential, timely and cost-effective law enforcement, jailer, and telecommunication specialists training at both the entry and in-service levels; and (2) Maintain and enforce reasonable standards for the law enforcement service that are critically necessary for the protection of the public that is served.

## **Accomplishments**

### **Basic Training**

The first basic training schools were 160 hours, four weeks in length. In 1972 basic training schools were increased to 240 hours, six weeks. In 1978 the basic training schools were increased to 400 hours, ten weeks. In the early 1990's the hours were increased to 480 hours in twelve weeks. In January 1996 the basic training schools were increased to 500 hours in thirteen weeks. The basic training hours are now 537 hours but are contained within thirteen weeks. It has been possible to increase hours without increasing the time away from home.

Some of the classes added were in response to 9-11 and include Terrorism Awareness, Agriculture Terrorism, and Forensic Epidemiology. Other classes added were county jails and civil process. The hours were increased in defensive tactics. A personality, team-building class called "Colors" was added in approximately 2004. Scenario-based testing started in fall 2006 to measure both the performance of the Academy instruction and the individual officers.

Family Day was re-instituted in approximately 2002. Family Day occurs from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm on a Friday during the basic academy training. Family members and significant others are invited to spend the day at the Academy to see where their loved ones are living and what their loved ones do. The visitors are given a tour of the Academy, observe their loved ones during defensive tactics training, have programs on weapon safety in the home and living as a law enforcement family. The program is well attended and appreciated by the family members.

The Certification by Examination Program had not been reviewed or updated for a number of years. The program was reviewed in 2006 with the format and questions being updated.

The Academy obtained Soft Gel Weapons (handguns) for scenario based training. These help create realism and have been used in vehicle stops and building searches scenarios.

New shotgun quality targets and transport tools were obtained for the firearms program. Equipment has been updated for the driving program including new cones, lights, radar and switch boxes.

New mattresses for the dormitory rooms were obtained in fall 2006. It was possible to purchase for all dormitory rooms because the Academy partnered with Iowa State University. The mattresses were last replaced in 1995.

The carpet in the dormitory has not been replaced since the building was first opened in the early 1970's. A replacement plan has been developed and should begin in fiscal year 2007.

The sponsored but not yet hired provision was placed into the law in approximately 2004 so that individuals sponsored but not yet hired could attend basic training. This law was passed in an effort to help cities and counties with budget concerns as the sponsored but not yet hired individual pays his/her own way through the Academy. The city or county does not pay any fees or salaries during the training.

## **Specialized Training**

Four federal grants were obtained from 1999 to 2007. The Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau and Violence against Women grants were maintained and the dollar amounts received increased. A one year grant was obtained from the Rural Family Violence program to develop training for rural Iowa. The Academy is currently part of the Elder Abuse grant working on development of training concerning elder abuse.

Lidar Radar certification program has been developed. Lidar radar equipment was obtained in fall 2006. The Academy is currently certifying officers and instructors in the use of Lidar Radar.

The number of specialty schools was increased during this time period and new classes were added. Some of the new programs include Police Training Officer Program, Honor Guard School, Internal Affairs Training, Patrol Response to the Active Shooter, and Dog Fighting – Illegal Gaming. The Academy partnered with the National Sheriff's Association and the American Humane Society to provide some of these programs.

The training catalog in the past was in printed form and sent only to the command and training staff of each agency. The training catalog is now on CD's that are sent to each agency as well as on the Academy web site for all officers to see.

## **Officer Computer Laboratory**



A computer laboratory is currently being created for basic training and specialty training of peace officers and prosecuting attorneys. The Academy library was reorganized and updated. The computer laboratory is located in the library area as seen in the picture. Twenty computers are available for student officer use in this area. There is also an instructor area at the front of the room with white board and screen for computer-led instruction.

The Academy is working with the state library to have internet ability for student research. Six of the computers are higher grade and will be able to digital photography training for officers and prosecutors. Additional classes will be conducted on such topics as forensics for computers, sexual exploitation of children, and computer scams.

Plans are underway to obtain funds for new computers in each of the dormitory rooms. Historically, the Academy has only used donated computers for the dormitory rooms and for some of the staff. Plans are developed to place new computers in the dormitory rooms with a three-year replacement plan.